

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 271355Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 408

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4756

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST - EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

1. BRITISH CHARGE REPORTS THAT ONE OF THEIR STAFF WAS PRESENT DURING SOCIAL AFFAIR AT WHICH NUMBER "SENIOR" OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TOOK COUNSELOR OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO TASK FOR EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE. MOROCCANS DESCRIBED THIS AS SERIOUS MISTAKE AND BETRAYAL ARAB CAUSE. EGYPTIAN COUNSELOR'S DEFENSE WAS INTERESTING. HE SAID THAT IN FIRST PLACE SOVIETS NOT PREPARED HAVE SINGLE ONE OF THEIR PEOPLE DIE FOR DEFENSE OF EGYPT AND THAT SOVIETS HAD THREATENED CUT OFF ARMS SUPPLIES IF EGYPTIANS DID NOT ACCEPT CEASEFIRE.

2. IT EVIDENT FROM PRESS COVERAGE AND REMARKS SUCH AS THOSE ABOVE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE BODY OF OPINION HERE THAT EGYPT SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED CEASEFIRE, BUT SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED FIGHTING EVEN IF IT MEANT DESTRUCTION EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. DCM ASKED ISTIQLALI PRESIDENT ALLAL AL-FASSI FOR HIS VIEW THIS MATTER DURING MEETING OCTOBER 27. AL-FASSI SAID THAT IF PROMISES BY SUPERPOWERS TO BRING ABOUT JUST SETTLEMENT THAT ARABS

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COULD ACCEPT WERE SINCERE, EGYPTIANS WERE CORRECT IN

ACCEPTING CEASEFIRE. IF THEY COULD GET PEACEFULLY WHAT THEY HAD SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN BY WAR, THEY SHOULD TAKE IT. ON OTHER HAND, IF SUPERPOWERS DID NOT MEAN WHAT THEY SAID, IT WAS MISTAKE. IT WAS ALSO MISTAKE FOR ISRAEL TO TRY TO DUPE THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, WHILE EXPANDING ITS TERRITORIAL HOLDINGS. IT WAS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE AND STOP ADVANCING ON GROUND, AND IT WAS IN HER INTEREST TO RETURN TO ARABS AND TO PALESTINIANS RIGHTS HERETOFORE USURPED. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE AND SHE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE DESTROYED.

3. COMMENT: BELEIVE FASSI CORRECTLY STATED WHAT WILL BE EVENTUAL OFFICIAL MOROCCAN VIEW OF CEASEFIRE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. PRIVATE VIEW OF KING, HOWEVER, MAY WELL BE MORE REALISTIC IN TERMS OF OPTIONS OPEN TO EGYPTIANS.
NEUMANN

NOTE BY OCT: RABAT 4756 NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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